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228 East 3rd Street  
Apt. #2B  
New York, NY 10009

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**To:** Galen L. Barefoot  
**Fax number:** 15712738300  
  
**From:** Ricardo A. Ducasse  
**Fax number:**  
**Business phone:**  
**Home phone:** 212-228-6031  
  
**Date & Time:** 11/29/2006 11:25:57 PM  
**Pages:** 2  
**Re:** Application 10/500,258

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Please forward to Primary Examiner Galen L. Barefoot --Technology Center 3644

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Ricardo A. Ducasse  
228 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (New address)  
Apt. #2B (New apartment number)  
New York, NY 10009  
Tel. 212-228-6031 (New telephone number)  
Email [ducassefamily@verizon.net](mailto:ducassefamily@verizon.net) (New email)

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November 29, 2006


Galen L. Barefoot  
c/o Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: Application No. 10/500,258

Dear Mr. Barefoot:

In consideration of the highly subjective evaluation process in which bureaucratic procedure is placed above substantive matter, and whereby there is a great body of issued patents with far more in common to one another than any of the three functionally disparate patents taken individually, or as a group, that you have used in an attempt to support your decision to reject each and every claim, I withdraw the above application and request that all text and images associated therewith be removed from the database of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and from access to any other parties -- public, or private. This last point is, however, academic due to a long and extensive series of refinements culminating in a significant advance in design that retains its dynamic performance, both within and beyond the atmosphere, while drastically eliminating mass, volume, drag, and thermal waste.

It is unfortunate, in fact deeply regretful, that this craft will not fly under a United States flag given the narrow minded and proprietary inclination of the AFRL, which even in the original V.A.P./S. design could only claim one deficiency as an exoatmospheric craft -- they believed it could not function as an SSTO (Single Stage to Orbit), despite support to the contrary from a staff astrophysicist attached to the R&D branch of the House Armed Services Committee. In any event, the new V.A.P./S. would undoubtedly fulfill that mission requirement and that is a fact that may well be proven elsewhere with those who are a bit more hungry to advance their position, and therefore a bit less arrogant and more ready to consider ideas that do not follow lockstep with convention. That said, given the vulnerability of satellites, and the heavy dependence of our economy and military upon them, I cannot help but to feel a measure of trepidation and question how history will judge the people and events that preceded what is to come.



Ricardo A. Ducasse